Manufacturing of indigenous Telephone apparatus

960. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether a foreign company has come forward for collaboration for the manufacture of indigenous telephone apparatus in India in the context of the liberal policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): As per existing policy for manufacture of telecommuncaition equpment, private sector is also encouraged to participate in the manufacture of subscribers' equipment like telephone instruments and EPABX etc. Three foreign companies have been selected for technical collaboration for the manufacture of electronic telephone instruments in the country by Indian companies to whom Letters of Intent/approvals for manufacture of electronic telephones have been given.

Import of Colour T.V: sets

961. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colour T.V. sets imported during the year 1984-85;

(b) the number of colour T.V. sets manufactured in India during the said period; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to bring down the prices of the T.V. sets in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

(b) The number of CTV sets manufactured in India during 1984-85 is around 3.9 lakhs.

(c) Various steps are taken to bring down the price of Colour TV sets. These include :—

(i) Issuing industrial approvals liberally, without any upper limit on capacities so that economically viable level of production could be achieved and competition encouraged.

(ii) Reducing Government levies like customs duty on imported raw materials/components, reduction in excise duty, etc.

(iii) A high power TV Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Electronics is functioning with representation from Indian TV Manufacturers Association, and Electronics Components Industries Association, to review and monitor the progress of manufacture of TV sets. The question of maximum price to be charged for a CTV set has been discussed in the various meetings of the above Committee. In the meeting of this Committee held on 16-8-1984, ITMA committed that from 15th October. 1984 cost of the CTV to the customer with all taxes and one year guarantee in Delhi will not be more than Rs. 7500 with electronic tuner and

(iv) Electronics Trade & Technology Development Corporation (ET&T) a public sector undertak-

(ET&T) a public sector undertaking under the Department of Electronics, under their 'Material Technology Brand Names' (MTB) programme will provide help to industry to produce quality products at reasonable cost by supplying material procured by them in bulk along with necessary technology. It is expected that CTVs manufactured under this scheme will be available at a price less than the price at

which the CTVs are being sold in the market.

(v) ET&T shall supply Colour Picture Tubes in adequate quantities to the various Colour TV manufacturers.

(vi) As a result of the discussions with Indian TV Manufacturers' Association, they have provided us the list of 6 members of their Association, who have agreed to sell their economy model Colour TV sets through Government distribution network, such as, co-operative societies, super bazars etc. Action has been initiated by Department of Electronics.

With the above steps and the market forces operating, prices of some models of CTV sets have come down.

Indo-Burma talks

962. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Burma during the 1st week of July, 1985;

(b) if so, the nature of talks held with the Burmese leaders; and

(c) the decision arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. I visited Rangoon from July 6—8, 1985.

(b) and (c) During my visit I called on the Burmese President, the Prime Minister, and had an extensive exchange of views with Forign Minister U Chit Hlaing on International and bilateral matter. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. It was agreed that steps should be taken to enhance the level of our commercial, economic and cultural exchanges. Both sides also agreed that periodic contacts should be maintained through high level visits. The visit was in pursuance of the Prime Minister initiative for developing closer relations with neighbouring coentries.

Estimated wasteland in th country

963. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI V. GOPALSWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated area of land presently affected by salinity and alkalinity in the country;

(b) the total estimated wasteland in the country, State-wise;

(c) the amount of money allotted for Wasteland reclamation; and

(d) the area of wasteland reclaimed as on 30th June, 1985 and the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) The estimated area of land presently affected by salinity (including coastal sandy areas) and alkalinity is about eight million hectares.

(b) The details of partially productive/unproductive non-forest areas as per landuse classification are given in the enclosed statement I. (*See below*). The corresponding figures for forest areas are given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) An amount of Rs. 25 crores has been proposed for the National Wastelands Development Board during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. Funds available under Social Foretry including Rural Fuelwood Plantations, Operation Soilwatch and Soil Conservation Programmes will be utilised for wastelands development. Some of the funds available under the Rural Development programmes, namely Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Integra-